

B2 --5(amended). The method of claim 1 wherein the standard state surface tension of said second liquid is [exposed to a substance or condition which reduces the surface tension of said second liquid] reduced. --

Sub. C27 B3 --8(amended). A method for disrupting cells by applying ultrasonic energy to a sample of cells in a first liquid, wherein the standard state surface tension of said first liquid is [exposed to a substance or condition which reduces the surface tension of said liquid] reduced. --

--9(amended). The method of claim 8 wherein said first liquid is contained in a vessel and said vessel is in a sonic bath comprising a second liquid.--

--10(amended). The method of claim 8 wherein beads are present in said first liquid.

--11(amended). The method of claim 8 wherein said first liquid is at an alkaline pH.

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### Remarks

Paper No. 9 presented claim rejections for: (1) indefiniteness and (2) obviousness. Each of these issues is addressed below.

#### I. Indefiniteness (35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph)

Claims 1 and 3-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for the reasons set forth below.

A. Claim 1 was alleged to be vague and indefinite for the recitation of "into said liquid" at line 3. As suggested in Paper No. 9, this phrase was amended to --into said first liquid--.

B. Claim 5 was alleged to be vague and indefinite for the recitation of "a substance or condition" because the metes and bounds of the claim can not be determined. Claim 5 has been